

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

## A TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO

SGT Marco Robledo

The United States Army

1st platoon A.CO. 875th en bn

RE . . . MARCO . . . BLE . . .

Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . .  
 While, cheating death . . . one of America's  
 very Best . . .  
 One of America's very finest . . . who he has  
 her our nation so blessed . . .  
 A Hero who goes off to war . . .  
 Upon, battlefields of honor . . . who but  
 gives up his arm and leg for us, would  
 bore . . .  
 All so Freedom can endure, while standing  
 alone at death's dark door . . .  
 As he walked through The Valley of Death!  
 Returning home, as there he lie right at the  
 very edge . . .  
 At the abyss, all the between life and death  
 . . . with but only his fine courage  
 left . . .  
 And then!  
 To rebuild, where non lies left . . . moment  
 by moment, as he would etch . . .  
 As most thought that he was left for dead,  
 but not him . . . with his courage  
 pledged . . .  
 As Day in and out . . .  
 While, all around him such pain and heart-  
 ache was but his to tout . . .  
 As against all odds, his fine heart would  
 shout . . .  
 It's not my time . . .  
 Some way I'll find, my way back . . . with  
 but my heart and soul, and mind . . .  
 Just Amazing, in what his life is saying . . .  
 Just Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . a soul  
 which shines!  
 Such a young heart . . .  
 And yet, such a strong soul and mind . . .  
 who has already lived two lifetimes of  
 gold . . .  
 As a Warrior and Hero first, then one of in-  
 spiration . . . facing but the worst so  
 bold . . .  
 Put upon this earth . . .  
 To but show mankind's great true fine  
 worth . . .  
 Our Lord's messenger to teach us, to reach  
 us so deep down inside so first!  
 In our times and in our lives . . .  
 What is it that we have so strived?  
 That's so Re . . . Marco . . . Ble . . . that so  
 defines . . . as most have not lived such  
 fine lives!

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, on July 30, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 542, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act and rollcall vote No. 543, H.R. 4040, the Conference Report for the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 542 and 543.

TRIBUTE TO RETIRING GEN  
RICHARD A. CODY

## HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this opportunity to recognize the long and distinguished career of GEN Richard A. Cody who is retiring after serving our nation's military with distinction for 36 years.

General Cody was born in Montpelier, Vermont. He is a graduate from the United States Military Academy. General Cody's military education also includes the Command and General Staff College and the United States Army War College. General Cody is a Master Aviator with over 5,000 hours of flight time and is an Air Assault graduate.

General Cody has received numerous decorations and badges for his outstanding efforts in the United States Army. These decorations and badges include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit (with four Oak Leaf Clusters), the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Air Medal (with numeral device "3"), the Army Commendation Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Achievement Medal, the NATO medal, as well as various other service awards.

General Cody became the 31st Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, on June 24, 2004. He and his wife are also very proud of their two sons, who both are serving as commissioned officers in the United States Army.

Madam Speaker, I know that Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to GEN Richard A. Cody for his exceptional commitment to his fellow soldiers, the United States Army, and the safety and security of America. As he prepares for the next stage in his life, I am certain that my colleagues will join in me in wishing General Cody, his wife, and their two sons all the best.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4040,  
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY  
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

## HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act (H.R. 4040) and to commend Chairman DINGELL and the conferees for their hard work on this important issue. In a recent letter to the conferees, I joined several other members in support of this bill and I am pleased that Congress is moving forward on this legislation that will help ensure the safety of America's children and consumers.

According to a leading consumer rights group, more than 45 million toys and children's products were recalled because of unsafe toxins and choking hazards in 2007. Data for 2008 shows that there have been 22 percent more recalls in the first half of this year as compared to the same period in 2007. Toy

safety, which has been called "last year's problem" by the toy industry, is still very much an urgent, current challenge. Congress must act to ensure that the products and toys our children are exposed to are free of toxins and hazards.

The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act takes bold measures to enhance the safety of products available to our children. This legislation takes a strong stand against destructive oil industry interests by banning toxic phthalates in children's toys. Studies indicate that exposure to phthalates in childhood increases the risk of cancer as an adult. It mandates third-party testing and certification for certain children's toys and materials, which were previously voluntary. The bill also has new protections for whistleblowers that will help ensure consumer safety by making it easier for employees to alert the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) about possible hazards before products reach the public.

Part of the toy safety problem has been the lack of capacity of the CPSC. The CPSC has been underfunded and inadequately equipped to ensure the safety of the products available to children. Staff levels at CPSC are currently less than half of 1980 levels. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act bolsters CPSC capacity by increasing funding and staffing for the agency, a significant step toward ensuring safety for our children. Also, by banning industry-sponsored travel by CPSC Commissioners and staff and restoring the five-member commission, the legislation prevents potential conflicts of interest that may jeopardize toy safety.

It is unacceptable for parents to have to worry about toys harming their children. The Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act is timely and targeted bipartisan legislation that takes significant steps to ensure that America's children are kept safe from harmful toxins in their toys. I urge my colleagues to support the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act and give this bill my full support.

FAMILY SMOKING PREVENTION  
AND TOBACCO CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

## HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1108, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act. This legislation would grant the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) long-needed authority to regulate the manufacture, sale, distribution and marketing of tobacco products.

As we all know, tobacco use contributes to the death of more than 400,000 Americans and costs the nation's health care system nearly \$100 billion each year. The most tragic part of this statistic is that virtually all of these deaths are preventable. It is alarming that preventable diseases such as emphysema, heart disease and cancer all can be attributed to the use of tobacco.

In addition to providing consumers with science-based information about tobacco products, granting FDA the authority to regulate tobacco will more importantly help protect